

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

D - MR. TICE

S/S: APSHANKLE

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O 022330Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 11867

1. AMOCO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY (SEPTEMBER 2) AND HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY INTEND TO SEND THE DRILLING RIG BACK TO SITE 304-1 ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4. THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO AMOCO'S MOVING ITS VESSEL BACK TO THE SITE; IT DID NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE AMOCO HOWEVER AND FELT THE DECISION WAS THE COMPANY'S. IT COULD NOT ASSURE AMOCO THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE FURTHER HARASSMENT BY THE ISRAELIS IF THE RIG RETURNED TO THE SITE.

2. ONE OF THE AMOCO OFFICIALS WHO TALKED TO US SAID THE COMPANY BELIEVED AND DESIRED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS IN THE PICTURE ON SATURDAY. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT THE EGYPTIANS APPARENTLY PLAN, HOWEVER, TO ESCORT THE RIG BACK OUT.

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3. WE ASKED AMOCO IF THEY WISHED US TO NOTIFY THE

ISRAELIS OF THE SATURDAY MOVE, AND RECEIVED EQUIVOCAL AND VAGUE RESPONSE. SINCE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE WAS TO PREVENT SITUATION IN WHICH ISRAELIS MIS-UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND TO ASSURE THEY KNEW

AN AMERICAN VESSEL WAS INVOLVED IN A PARTICULAR MOVE, WE SEE NO POINT IN INFORMING ISRAELIS ABOUT FURTHER MOVEMENTS OF THE MARINER TO THIS SITE.

4. AMOCO OFFICIAL SAID FURTHER THAT THE AMOCO DRILLING SUPERINTENDENT FROM CAIRO HAD TALKED TO CREW MEMBERS OF THE MARINER TO CONFIRM THE DETAILS OF THE AUGUST 31 INCIDENT. HE HAD DEPOSITIONS FROM A NUMBER OF THEM THAT ASSERTED THE ISRAELIS DID IN FACT ISSUE AN 8-HOUR ULTIMATUM AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INCIDENT. THE WITNESSES SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISRAELI GUNBOAT DID NOT RETURN TO RENEW THE ULTIMATUM AT 2400. THE MARINER CAPTAIN LEFT AT THAT TIME BECAUSE THE TUG SKIPPERS SAID THEY WERE AFRAID TO WAIT UNTIL THE 8-HOUR ULTIMATUM EXPIRED AT 0100. AT THAT POINT THERE WERE FIVE GUNBOATS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY. THE HELICOPTERS WERE REPORTED FROM SHORE OBSERVATION BUT APPARENTLY NEVER APPROACHED CLOSER THAN A MILE TO THE MARINER. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HARASSMENT, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 02 SEP 1976  
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